



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Food and  
Nutrition  
Service

Mountain  
Plains  
Region

1244 Speer Boulevard  
Denver, CO  
80204-2581

MAR 26 2003

Reply to  
Attn of:

SP-03-14  
CACFP-694  
SFSP- 476

Subject:

Income Eligibility Guidelines, School Year (SY) 2003-2004

To:

STATE AGENCY DIRECTORS - Colorado ED, Colorado DPHE,  
(Special Nutrition Programs) Iowa, Kansas, Missouri ED, Missouri DH,  
Montana OPI, Montana DPHHS, Nebraska ED,  
North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming ED

The attached Federal Register Notice dated March 13, 2003, announces the Department's annual adjustments to the Income Eligibility guidelines to be used in determining eligibility for free and reduced price meals and free milk for the period July 1, 2003 to June 30, 2004. These guidelines are used by schools, institutions and centers participating in the National School Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program, Special Milk Program for Children, Child and Adult Care Food Program, Summer Food Service Program, and Commodity School Program. The annual adjustments are required by Section 9 of the National School Lunch Act. The guidelines are intended to direct benefits to those children most in need and are revised annually to account for increases in the Consumer Price Index.

Also attached is a chart created by our office that includes the amounts for income frequencies of every two weeks and twice a month.

Please call our office if you have any questions.

*for* DARLENE SANCHEZ  
Regional Director  
Special Nutrition Programs

Attachments

**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE****Food and Nutrition Service****Child Nutrition Programs—Income Eligibility Guidelines**

**AGENCY:** Food and Nutrition Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** This Notice announces the Department's annual adjustments to the Income Eligibility Guidelines to be used in determining eligibility for free and reduced price meals or free milk for the period from July 1, 2003 through June 30, 2004. These guidelines are used by schools, institutions, and facilities participating in the National School Lunch Program (and Commodity School Program), School Breakfast Program, Special Milk Program for Children, Child and Adult Care Food Program and Summer Food Service Program. The annual adjustments are required by section 9 of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act. The guidelines are intended to direct benefits to those children most in need and are revised annually to account for changes in the Consumer Price Index.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** July 1, 2003.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. Robert M. Eadie, Chief, Policy and Program Development Branch, Child Nutrition Division, FNS, USDA, Alexandria, Virginia 22302, or by phone at (703) 305-2620.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This action is not a rule as defined by the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601-612) and thus is exempt from the provisions of that Act.

In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3507), no new recordkeeping or reporting requirements have been included that are subject to approval from the Office of Management and Budget.

This action is exempted from review by the Office of Management and Budget under Executive Order 12866.

These programs are listed in the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance under No. 10.553, No. 10.555, No. 10.556, No. 10.558 and No. 10.559 and are subject to the provisions of Executive Order 12372, which requires intergovernmental consultation with State and local officials. (See 7 CFR Part 3015, Subpart V, and the final rule related notice published at 48 FR 29114, June 24, 1983.)

**Background**

Pursuant to sections 9(b)(1) and 17(c)(4) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C.

1758(b)(1) and 42 U.S.C. 1766(c)(4)), and sections 3(a)(6) and 4(e)(1)(A) of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1772(a)(6) and 1773(e)(1)(A)), the Department annually issues the Income Eligibility Guidelines for free and reduced price meals for the National School Lunch Program (7 CFR Part 210), the Commodity School Program (7 CFR Part 210), School Breakfast Program (7 CFR Part 220), Summer Food Service Program (7 CFR Part 225) and Child and Adult Care Food Program (7 CFR Part 226) and the guidelines for free milk in the Special Milk Program for Children (7 CFR Part 215). These eligibility guidelines are based on the Federal income poverty guidelines and are stated by household size. The guidelines are used to determine eligibility for free and reduced price meals and free milk in accordance with applicable program rules.

**Definition of Income**

In accordance with the Department's policy as provided in the Food and Nutrition Service publication *Eligibility Guidance for School Meals Manual*, "income," as the term is used in this Notice, means income before any deductions such as income taxes, Social Security taxes, insurance premiums, charitable contributions and bonds. It includes the following: (1) Monetary compensation for services, including wages, salary, commissions or fees; (2) net income from nonfarm self-employment; (3) net income from farm self-employment; (4) Social Security; (5) dividends or interest on savings or bonds or income from estates or trusts; (6) net rental income; (7) public assistance or welfare payments; (8) unemployment compensation; (9) government civilian employee or military retirement, or pensions or veterans payments; (10) private pensions or annuities; (11) alimony or child support payments; (12) regular contributions from persons not living in the household; (13) net royalties; and (14) other cash income. Other cash income would include cash amounts received or withdrawn from any source including savings, investments, trust accounts and other resources that would be available to pay the price of a child's meal.

"Income," as the term is used in this Notice, does not include any income or benefits received under any Federal programs that are excluded from consideration as income by any legislative prohibition. Furthermore, the value of meals or milk to children shall not be considered as income to their households for other benefit programs in accordance with the prohibitions in

section 12(e) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act and section 11(b) of the Child Nutrition Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 1760(e) and 1780(b)).

**The Income Eligibility Guidelines**

The following are the Income Eligibility Guidelines to be effective from July 1, 2003 through June 30, 2004.

The Department's guidelines for free meals and milk and reduced price meals were obtained by multiplying the year 2003 Federal income poverty guidelines by 1.30 and 1.85, respectively, and by rounding the result upward to the next whole dollar. Weekly and monthly guidelines were computed by dividing

annual income by 52 and 12, respectively, and by rounding upward to the next whole dollar. The numbers reflected in this notice for a family of four represent an increase of 1.66% over the July 2002 numbers for a family of the same size.

BILLING CODE 3410-30-P

**INCOME ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES**  
(Effective from July 1, 2003 to June 30, 2004)

Household size	Federal Poverty Guidelines				Reduced Price Meals - 185%				Free Meals - 130%			
	Annual		Month		Annual		Month		Annual		Month	
	Annual	Month	Week	Week	Annual	Month	Week	Week	Annual	Month	Week	Week
<b>48 CONTIGUOUS UNITED STATES, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, GUAM AND TERRITORIES</b>												
1.....	8,980	749	173	320	16,613	1,385	320	320	11,674	973	225	225
2.....	12,120	1,010	234	432	22,422	1,869	432	432	15,756	1,313	303	303
3.....	15,260	1,272	294	543	28,231	2,353	543	543	19,838	1,654	382	382
4.....	18,400	1,534	354	655	34,040	2,837	655	655	23,920	1,994	460	460
5.....	21,540	1,795	415	767	39,849	3,321	767	767	28,002	2,334	539	539
6.....	24,680	2,057	475	879	45,658	3,805	879	879	32,084	2,674	617	617
7.....	27,820	2,319	535	990	51,467	4,289	990	990	36,166	3,014	696	696
8.....	30,960	2,580	596	1,102	57,276	4,773	1,102	1,102	40,248	3,354	774	774
For each add'l family member add	+3,140	+262	+61	+112	+5,809	+485	+112	+112	+4,082	+341	+79	+79
<b>ALASKA</b>												
1.....	11,210	935	216	399	20,739	1,729	399	399	14,573	1,215	281	281
2.....	15,140	1,262	292	539	28,009	2,335	539	539	19,682	1,641	379	379
3.....	19,070	1,590	367	679	35,280	2,940	679	679	24,791	2,066	477	477
4.....	23,000	1,917	443	819	42,550	3,546	819	819	29,900	2,492	575	575
5.....	26,930	2,245	518	959	49,821	4,152	959	959	35,009	2,918	674	674
6.....	30,860	2,572	594	1,098	57,091	4,758	1,098	1,098	40,118	3,344	772	772
7.....	34,790	2,900	670	1,238	64,362	5,364	1,238	1,238	45,227	3,769	870	870
8.....	38,720	3,227	745	1,378	71,632	5,970	1,378	1,378	50,336	4,195	968	968
For each add'l family member add	+3,930	+328	+76	+140	+7,271	+606	+140	+140	+5,109	+426	+99	+99
<b>HAWAII</b>												
1.....	10,330	861	199	368	19,111	1,593	368	368	13,429	1,120	259	259
2.....	13,940	1,162	269	496	25,789	2,150	496	496	18,122	1,511	349	349
3.....	17,550	1,463	338	625	32,468	2,706	625	625	22,815	1,902	439	439
4.....	21,160	1,764	407	753	39,146	3,263	753	753	27,508	2,293	529	529
5.....	24,770	2,065	477	882	45,825	3,819	882	882	32,201	2,684	620	620
6.....	28,380	2,365	546	1,010	52,503	4,376	1,010	1,010	36,894	3,075	710	710
7.....	31,990	2,666	616	1,139	59,182	4,932	1,139	1,139	41,587	3,466	800	800
8.....	35,600	2,967	685	1,267	65,860	5,489	1,267	1,267	46,280	3,857	890	890
For each add'l family member add	+3,610	+301	+70	+129	+6,679	+557	+129	+129	+4,693	+392	+91	+91

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Authority: (42 U.S.C. 1758(b)(1)).

Dated: March 6, 2003.

Roberto Salazar,

Administrator.

[FR Doc. 03-6079 Filed 3-12-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-30-C

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# INCOME ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES

(Effective From July 1, 2003 to June 30, 2004)

Household Size	FREE MEALS - 130%					REDUCED PRICE MEALS - 185%				
	Annually	Monthly	Weekly	Every Two Weeks	Twice a Month	Annually	Monthly	Weekly	Every Two Weeks	Twice a Month
1	\$11,674	\$973	\$225	\$449	\$487	\$16,613	\$1,385	\$320	\$639	\$693
2	\$15,756	\$1,313	\$303	\$606	\$657	\$22,422	\$1,869	\$432	\$863	\$935
3	\$19,838	\$1,654	\$382	\$763	\$827	\$28,231	\$2,353	\$543	\$1,086	\$1,177
4	\$23,920	\$1,994	\$460	\$920	\$997	\$34,040	\$2,837	\$655	\$1,310	\$1,419
5	\$28,002	\$2,334	\$539	\$1,077	\$1,167	\$39,849	\$3,321	\$767	\$1,533	\$1,661
6	\$32,084	\$2,674	\$617	\$1,234	\$1,337	\$45,658	\$3,805	\$879	\$1,757	\$1,903
7	\$36,166	\$3,014	\$696	\$1,391	\$1,507	\$51,467	\$4,289	\$990	\$1,980	\$2,145
8	\$40,248	\$3,354	\$774	\$1,548	\$1,677	\$57,276	\$4,773	\$1,102	\$2,203	\$2,387
For each additional Family member, add	\$4,082	\$341	\$79	\$157	\$171	\$5,809	\$485	\$112	\$224	\$243